

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47), Vice Chair of the House Homeland Security Committee and Chair of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats, and Capabilities, today released the following statement regarding the arrest of Faisal Shahzad, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Pakistan, in connection with Saturday's attempted car bomb attack in Times Square:

"I want to thank our local and federal law enforcement officials, and alert New Yorkers, for their quick action in response to the attempted car bomb attack in Times Square. The relevant authorities continue to work together to gather intelligence and investigate whether Faisal Shahzad, who drove the car bomb into New York City, acted alone or with accomplices.

"As Chairwoman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over our counterterrorism operations, one of my major concerns is the growing rise of extremism in the United States and abroad. Saturday's attempted attack is the most recent event in a string of incidents involving extremism by U.S. citizens. Who can forget Jihad Jane, an unassuming Pennsylvanian who planned to wage violent jihad against her fellow citizens, or U.S. Army Major Nidal Hasan, a decorated military officer who killed thirteen people and wounded thirty others at the Fort Hood military base in Texas?

"These events were not isolated incidents, and I believe it would be a grave mistake for our law enforcement and security teams to treat them as such. We know that extremist individuals and terrorist organizations are increasingly utilizing all available communication networks to spread their message of fear and hate across the world. Saturday's attempted attack is yet another reminder that the United States must continue to be alert and proactive about countering such extremism in the United States and internationally.

"As we continue to investigate the Times Square car bomb case, it is imperative that we pay attention to the motivations driving Faisal Shahzad's actions. Until we better understand why American citizens would turn to terrorism, our efforts to prevent these kinds of attacks in the future will be severely compromised."

*Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez is proud to represent California's 47<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which includes the cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and parts of Fullerton in Orange County. She*

*serves as Vice Chair of the House Homeland Security Committee and Chair of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats, and Capabilities. Rep. Sanchez is also a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and sits on the bipartisan, bicameral Joint Economic Committee.*